

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Fact Sheet



## What Is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that flows over the land after rainfall. Stormwater runs off from roofs, streets, and parking lots, where it can't soak into the soil. Stormwater can wash pollution from these surfaces into the storm drain system, which then discharges to local creeks and ravines.

## Why Does It Matter?

Stormwater is not treated by the local wastewater treatment plant, so it is important for us to prevent stormwater pollution. Pollution in stormwater, such as oil, pesticides, and trash, can be harmful if it reaches the waterways where wildlife lives. Stormwater may also contain harmful bacteria or viruses that can affect humans who swim, fish, or drink from those waterways.

## Where Does Stormwater Pollution Come From?

Many human activities can contribute to stormwater pollution, including home pest control, gardening, taking care of pets, car washing and maintenance, and dumping or littering.

## How Can I Help?

This brochure describes several ways to prevent stormwater pollution. For more information, contact:

Public Services Department  
(916) 434-2450  
[Public.Services@lincolncalifornia.gov](mailto:Public.Services@lincolncalifornia.gov)



## Water Conservation

Conserving water both indoors and outdoors is important for our limited water supply. Minimizing outdoor water use will also help prevent stormwater pollution.

### Learn More

Learn how you can help during the drought.  
Visit: [www.bewatersmart.info](http://www.bewatersmart.info)



### Home and Garden

- Use fewer pesticides in the garden. Instead, control pests with less-toxic methods such as mulch, insecticidal soap, or beneficial insects like ladybugs.
- Use less fertilizer on the lawn and garden.
- Minimize water use and avoid overwatering the lawn. This prevents water from running into the street and storm drain system.
- Don't hose down the driveway. If there is an oily spot, use kitty litter or sand to absorb it, sweep it up, and dispose of it in the trash.
- Don't leave yard waste in the street.

### Learn More

Learn about less toxic pest control methods.  
Visit: [www.ourwaterourworld.org](http://www.ourwaterourworld.org) and  
[www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)



### Pet Waste

- Carry pet waste disposal bags with you on walks and hikes. Don't leave pet waste on the ground or in the surrounding vegetation.
- Always pick up after your pet by sealing the waste in a plastic bag and disposing of it in the trash.
- Keep your pet on a leash when walking along creeks and ravines.
- Pick up pet waste left in your yard.
- Never hose pet waste into the street or down a storm drain.



### Outdoors

- Always put trash in a trash can and recyclables in the recycle bin.
- Properly dispose of bulky items and hazardous waste materials at the Western Placer Waste Management Authority Household Hazardous Waste facility.
- Do not dump any materials or pour anything down a storm drain.

### Learn More

Learn what types of waste materials can be safely disposed of at the local Household Hazardous Waste facility.

Go to: [www.wpwma.com](http://www.wpwma.com)



### Car Care

- Use a commercial car wash, rather than washing your car at home.
- If you wash your car at home, wash it on the lawn, not in the driveway or on the street. Minimize use of soaps and chemicals, and reduce water use by using a bucket and sponge, as well as a trigger nozzle.
- Use cardboard to absorb oil dripping from your car. Fix any leaks as soon as possible.
- Recycle your used oil and filters at a free collection center. Don't dump used oil or filters in the street or storm drains, in garbage cans, in or on the ground, or directly into creeks or ravines.
- Don't let trash blow out the windows of your car.

### Take Action

Find a certified used oil recycling center near you!

Go to: [www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch](http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/UsedOil/Reports/CenterSearch)

Schedule an appointment for pick-up of Universal Waste, including used motor oil and filters, by calling the Public Services Department at (916) 434-2450.